

**A
PRESENTATION
BY KYLE
BUDGELL**



Publishing Information

“Hit-Squad” was published in 2003 by Orca Soundings, and it was written by James Heneghan.

orca soundings
Teen Fiction for Reluctant Readers



A summary of the book...

The story of “Hit-Squad” by James Heneghan is about a teenage boy named Michael and a teenage girl named Birgit. One day, they meet up in the old band room in the basement and together they team up with two other boys named “Whisper” and Peter to take on the bullies at Grandview High at an attempt to try to triumph good over evil.

A little collage...



The Characters...

Michael / Mickey - moved from Creekside Junior High to Grandview High; which makes him one of the poor kids. Michael is also often seen as a tough kid because he was a part of the Creekside Cougars. His parents died in a car crash when he was younger, so he lives in an abandoned foster home called the Hobbit House with other characters.

Birgit - Another one of the main characters, she also goes to Grandview High. She is one of the rich kids, but she gets bullied often like Michael.

Peter - Another member of the Hit-Squad, he helps Birgit and Michael decide who to go for next. However, Michael often states throughout the novel that he does not like Peter because he acts like a pet in front of Birgit.

Characters continued...

Whisper - Whisper is a member of the Hit-Squad and the football team, and he often talks in a low, quiet and raspy tone. It is also believed by Michael that Whisper also hates Peter.

Hulk / Heck - A friend of Michael's, he was a part of the Creekside Cougars. He is the older person of the bunch, and joins the hit-squad later on in the novel. Hulk is called "Hulk" because he is tall and full of muscle, but his preferred name is Heck.

Joey Washington - Another friend of Michael's, he was also a part of the Cougars and he is described as a good fighter. We don't get to know much else about him.

Candy - A friend of Michael and Hulk's who lives at the Hobbit House, and seems to be Hulk's best friend. We don't get to know much about her either.

The Protagonist...

Michael, commonly called Mickey is the main character or protagonist in the novel. Michael went from Creekside Junior High to Grandview High, and he is one of the poor kids. He gets bullied often like most of the other characters in the novel, and he is a part of the “hit-squad” and the football team. When he went to Creekside, he used to be a part of a gang called the Creekside Cougars alongside his friend Hulk.

The Antagonist...

There is not really a single antagonist in this novel, but I guess you could say that the antagonists in this novel are the bullies at Grandview High. However, towards the end of the novel there is a conflict between Birgit and Michael, so I guess you could *also* say that later on Birgit may also become a antagonist.



Is there any symbolism?

No, there is not much symbolism throughout the novel. The story is kept rather short and sweet, so therefore there is not much symbolism.

The Climax...

The climax in this novel is when the Hit-Squad has another meeting in the old band room in the basement, and they decide that their first hit is going to be the girls that bully Birgit. This is where things start to get interesting because this is when Michael starts to realize that the whole idea of a “hit-squad” might not be so good, but he still goes along with it because nothing wrong has happened yet.

What type of conflicts are in the novel?

Internal - Michael has internal conflict when a hit goes terribly wrong and has to deal with a horrible tragedy along with it. There is also internal conflict within Candy when this happens too.

External - Michael, Birgit, Peter and Whisper (and other kids in the school) versus all the bullies in Grandview High.

Interpersonal - Kind of like the external conflict, during a hit it is the hit-squad vs the victim. Also near the end Michael versus Birgit and Michael versus Candy.

Here are some book reviews!

“This story will hit home for teens who deal with bullying on a daily basis.” (VOYA 2003-12-01)

“Heneghan poses serious questions about bullying and violence among young people.” (Publishers Weekly 2003-10-01)

Connections?

Yes, there are multiple connections I can make with “Hit-Squad” by James Heneghan. One primary example is text to world, as bullying is a **HUGE** problem today, and this book’s theme is basically telling you that violence does not solve anything at all whatsoever. I could also make a text to self connection, as I witness bullying taking place all the time (not so much around school but online.)

Would I suggest this novel?

Yes, I would suggest this novel to anyone who likes a simple and generic theme, and also to people who don't like massively long books. I like reading short and long books, but what pulled me into reading "Hit-Squad" by James Heneghan more and more was the suspense and wondering who the next victim was going to be. Overall however, I would give this book a 7/10. It's a pretty solid read with a great theme (which is "violence doesn't solve anything"), but it won't be a book you will pick up and put down and say "That was the best book ever!"

THANK You
FOR
LISTENING!